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AMBASSADORS

WASHINGTON (AP)--APPOINTEES HEADING ABROAD AS NEW U.S. AMBASSADORS WERE URGED TODAY TO ASSERT THEIR ROLES AS CHIEFS OF ALL AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES WITHIN THEIR ASSIGNED COUNTRIES.

THE ADVICE CAME FROM CHAIRMAN J. W. FULBRIGHT OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AS THE NOMINEES APPEARED FOR HEARINGS.

FULBRIGHT FREQUENTLY HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER WHAT HE HAS VIEWED AS INROADS ON THE POLICY THAT THE U.S. AMBASSADOR IS THE HEAD OF THE ENTIRE U.S. TEAM IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY.

THE CHAIRMAN HAS REFERRED TO THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AND CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AS OPERATING INDEPENDENTLY OF THE AMBASSADOR AND SOMETIMES TO THE DETRIMENT OF U.S. INTERESTS.

THE COMMITTEE CONDUCTED HEARINGS ON THE NOMINATIONS OF FORMER U.S. SEN. KENNETH B. KEATING AS AMBASSADOR TO INDIA; FORMER NEBRASKA GOV. VAL PETERSON, FINLAND; WILLIAM LEONHART, YUGOSLAVIA; WILLIAM J. HANDLEY, TURKEY, AND ALFRED PUHAN, HUNGARY.

LEONHART, HANDLEY AND PUHAN ARE CAREER DIPLOMATS.

KEATING, WHO WAS ELECTED TO NEW YORK STATE'S HIGHEST COURT AFTER LEAVING THE SENATE, SAID HE HAD NO PLANS FOR AGAIN SEEKING ELECTIVE OFFICE.

HE PROMISED TO WORK TO HELP RESOLVE A LONGSTANDING EFFORT OVER PUTTING TO GOOD USE A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF RUPEES THE UNITED STATES HOLDS IN INDIA.

FULBRIGHT SUGGESTED SUCH PROJECTS AS TECHNICAL AID OR EDUCATION.

PETERSON, A FORMER AMBASSADOR TO DENMARK AND U.S. ADMINISTRATOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE IN THE EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATION, WAS INTRODUCED TO THE COMMITTEE BY SENS. ROMAN HRUSKA AND CARL CURTIS, BOTH NEBRASKA REPUBLICANS.

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